

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

Protecting the health and safety of our children is a top priority for me. Children in subsidized child care whose child care provider is a relative, a neighbor or an unlicensed person deserve the same protections as children in licensed child care. Earlier this year I directed the California Department of Social Services to develop regulations to better protect children's safety by requiring criminal background clearance of TrustLine providers before the providers are eligible for payment.

The proposed regulations, which I am directing the Department of Social Services to file immediately, assure criminal background checks are completed before child care providers are paid, just like providers in licensed child care facilities must be cleared prior to work. The regulations put child safety first and ensure parents transitioning from welfare-to-work continue to have immediate access to numerous subsidized child care options, including child care centers, licensed care, and care provided by grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Since AB 1601 would not require TrustLine providers to complete a criminal background check before they are paid in the timeline our children deserve, I am returning it without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger